

Message Text

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53

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 SY-05 USSS-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 AGR-05 OPIC-03 L-03 /059 W

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O 021601Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6123

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 592

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SECRETARY SIMON) SY

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS

REF: STATE 22530, DAMASCUS 249

1. OUR BEST ESTIMATE AT THIS POINT IS THAT SECRETARY SIMON'S CALLS WILL BE ONLY ON PRESIDENT ASAD AND DEPRIMIN HAYDAR (WITH MINECON IMADI AND/OR PERHAPS MINFIN SHARIF SITTING IN). LUNCHEON FOR WHICH ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS SHOULD BE ALLOWED, WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVERSATION WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN ECONOMIC FIELDS. (IMADI SAYS HE PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON FEB 23 FOR IBRD EXECUTIVE GOVERNORS' MEETING, BUT BELIEVES HE WILL BE BACK BY FEB 28).

2. ASSUME FEB 28 DATE NOW FIRM AND WE CAN BEGIN DETAILED PLANNING FOR VISIT WITH SARG. PLEASE CONFIRM.

3. SUGGEST THAT SECRETARY SIMON'S BRIEFING PAPERS INCLUDE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS FOR ## WITH SYRIANS.

A) POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN SYRIA AND US, ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC SPHERE;

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B) STATUS SYRIA'S PL-480 REQUEST FOR FY 76;

C) OUR PLEASURE AT PROGRESS MADE ON CLAIMS
NEGOTIATIONS;

D) NEED FOR OVERALL AID BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO
BE CONCLUDED QUICKLY;

E) NEED FOR OPIC AGREEMENT TO ATTRACT AMERICAN
INVESTORS (DAMASCUS 452);

F) OVERALL WORLD FINANCIAL STABILITY, OUR EFFORTS
AT JAMACIA IMF MEETING (IBRD/IMF SALARIES AS
IMADI IS 1976 CHAIRMAN OF IBRD GOVERNORS).

4. BRIEFING PAPERS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE SUGGESTED
RESPONSES TO FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WHICH SYRIANS MAY
RAISE:

A) US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL;

B) US REGULATIONS REGARDINANTISCRIMINATOR TRADING
PRACTICES AND BOYCOTTS;

C) GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE (GSP),
ALTHOUGH SYRIAN BENEFITS ON EXPORTS TO US ARE VERY
SMALL AND WE THEREFORE DOUBT SYRIANS WILL RAISE GSP.
MURPHY

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